



## **A GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS: USING GET UNITS 2006-2007 ACADEMIC YEAR**

### **What is GET?**

The Guaranteed Education Tuition Program (GET) is Washington state's 529 prepaid college tuition program. With GET, the state of Washington guarantees that the money saved for a child's college education will keep pace with rising college tuition.

The legislature and governor created GET to help families save for college. Today GET is one of the fastest growing prepaid college tuition programs in the country, with more than 66,000 college accounts worth more than \$720 million. GET is governed by federal IRS rules and Washington state law.

### **How does GET determine the value of each unit?**

GET accounts are measured in units, which are not associated with class credits/units. One hundred GET units equal one year's undergraduate tuition and state-mandated fees at the most expensive Washington public university. One GET unit equals 1 percent of that total. If the highest public in-state tuition equals \$5,888 then one unit equals \$58.88. The payout value for the 2006-2007 academic year is \$58.88 per unit.

Each year on August 1, we set the payout value for the upcoming academic year. In addition, we determine the number of units that are eligible for use during the upcoming academic year.

### **How does GET impact financial aid?**

As a result of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, GET units will be reported as an asset of the account owner when completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Beginning in the 2006-2007 academic year, GET units will no longer be treated as a dollar-for-dollar resource when schools award financial aid. ***This results in a much lower impact on the financial aid award for GET participants.***

### **What is the school's role in the payment process?**

Schools do not invoice GET. The GET account owner directs payments from his GET account to the school. The account owner tells us where the student will go to school and how much to pay the school for tuition and/or housing. We then pay the school directly.

Note: GET account owners must wait until August 1 to request payments from their GET accounts for the 2006-2007 academic year. It takes approximately two weeks for the payment to be processed and to reach the school.

## **How does a school know if they have GET students or will receive GET funds?**

GET allows selected school personnel to access two secure online sites:

### **1. GET Eligibility Roster**

The roster displays students who have notified us that they will attend your school and the number of GET units each student has available for use. Keep in mind that the account owner may choose not to use all eligible funds during the current academic year.

### **2. GET Direct Payments to an Institution**

This site allows you to view GET payments to your school by term or date range and the status of these requests. You can easily review the amount of money your school will receive and whether we have processed the payment requests.

## **How do I access the GET eligibility roster and direct payments information?**

For security purposes, GET tries to limit access to two employees per school, generally those who work in the Student Accounts or Financial Aid offices. If you are unsure whether you are registered, please email us at [Benefitsinfo@hecb.wa.gov](mailto:Benefitsinfo@hecb.wa.gov) and we will verify it for you. Please inform us if you know of someone who should be removed from our list of authorized personnel with access to the site.

### ***Registering for the first time***

- Log on to [www.hecb.wa.gov/login](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/login) to register for access to the eligibility roster.
- Click on “Don’t have an account? [Register Here.](#)” Please do NOT complete the email address or password sections when registering for the first time.
- Click to register as a “Financial Aid Administrator or related staff person.” On the new screen, complete the “User Information.”
- Under “Access Requests,” click ONLY the boxes for:  
“GET Eligibility Roster” and “GET Direct Payments to an Institution.”
- Click on “Create Account.”  
You will receive an email confirmation from us verifying your registration. The GET Program will verify your status as a school employee and email you within a few days to confirm your access.

### ***After you register and receive authorization***

After you register and receive authorization, you may view the GET eligibility roster and direct payments information at any time.

### ***View the Eligibility Roster***

- Log on to [www.hecb.wa.gov/login](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/login)
- Type in your email address and password.
- Click “Login.”
- Select “GET Eligibility Roster.”
- Select Institution, Month, Year, and then click “Search for Eligible GET Students.”

You will see a list of all students who have notified us they are going to your school, along with the number of units (and dollar amounts) they are eligible to use. The dollar amounts listed on the eligibility roster are a guaranteed source of funding. If you do not find a student on the roster,

please email us at [Benefitsinfo@hecb.wa.gov](mailto:Benefitsinfo@hecb.wa.gov). When you check the roster in the summer, please select a month in the future (September or October) so you can see the eligible units for that fall. Keep in mind that the account owner may choose not to use all eligible funds during the current academic year.

***View the Direct Payments to an Institution***

Log on to [www.hecb.wa.gov/login](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/login)

- Type in your email address and password.
- Click “Login.”
- Select “GET Direct Payments for an Institution.”
- Select Term or a date range, payment status type, and click “Search for GET Payments.”

This option will tell you the history of distributions and requests categorized by term. When you select “fall” for all payments, you will see what has been paid and what is still outstanding. If you want to see only one request for a particular student, please enter his or her last name or SSN and click “Search for GET Payments.”

**Questions?**

If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

*Email*

[Benefitsinfo@hecb.wa.gov](mailto:Benefitsinfo@hecb.wa.gov)

*Telephone*

Toll-free: 1-800-955-2318 (weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except state holidays)

*Web Site*

[www.get.wa.gov](http://www.get.wa.gov)

*Mail*

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